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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1-72

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SALT

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF NOVEMBER 15 COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON SALT

1. NOVEMBER 15 SALT CONSULTATION WITH NAC BY AMBASSADOR FARLEY INDICATED GENERAL ALLIED UNDERSTANDING OF AND SUPPORT FOR THE US APPROACH TO SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE ALLIES NOTED THAT SALT TWO WAS LIKELY TO INVOLVE ISSUES OF EVEN GREATER DIRECT CONCERN TO THEMSELVES THAN DID SALT ONE. THERE WERE NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO THE FBS QUESTION. REGARDING THE GENERALIZED NON-CIRCUMVENTION FORMULA SET FORTH IN OUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 10 (STATE 204981), THOSE WHO SPOKE INDICATED SUPPORT FOR IT, SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION. THE UK CONSIDERED THAT, IF ATTAINABLE, THIS WOULD BE BEST OUTCOME FOR THE FBS ISSUE. NETHERLANDS OFFERED A PAPER (POUCHED) CONTAINING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE EXCLUSION OF FBS FROM SALT, EXCEPT FOR NON-CIRCUMVENTION.

3. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SEARCHING QUESTIONS REGARDING THE US AIM TO SEEK EQUAL AGGREGATES OF CENTRAL SYSTEMS. OTHER QUESTIONS CENTERED ON NON-TRANSFER AND POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FBS IN SALT AND IN MBFR.

4. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, SUPPORTED BY

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DEPUTY SYG PANSA, SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL MIGHT ASK THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO BEGIN NOW A STUDY OF THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO STRATEGY OF LIMITATIONS OR REDUCTIONS OF FBS. THENETHERLANDS STRONGLY OPPOSED THIS AS PREMATURE AND POSSIBLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THIS ENDED THE MATTER FOR THE TIME BEING.

5. ALL WELCOMED THE US INTENTION TO CONSULT CLOSELY DURING SALT TWO. THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE PROPOSED US APPROACH TO THE FIRST SESSION OF SALT TWO OR SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TALKS, ANOTHER CONSULTATION MIGHT BE SET FOR JUST BEFORE OR AFTER THE DECEMBER MINISTERIALS.

6. SEPTELS FOLLOW GIVING FULL REPORTS OF COUNCIL AND EXPERTS SESSION.

XGDS-3  
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